

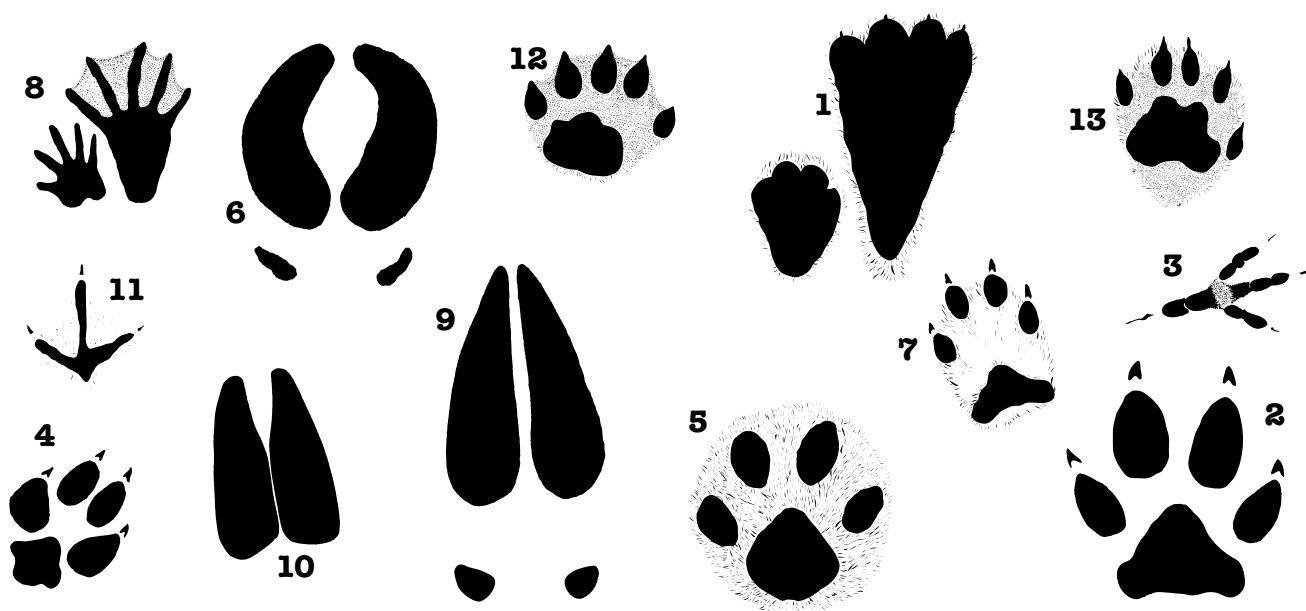


WINTER TRACKS



Deciphering animal tracks can be as exciting as seeing the animal. How do your skills stack up? Take the quiz and find out.

1. This animal has feet like snowshoes. The front paws hit the ground first, and the back paws swing through leaving tracks in the front!
2. These animals' dog-like tracks show four toes with claws. Walking and trotting leaves an alternating pattern. They travel long distances, often in packs, and eat other animals when they can catch them.
3. An intelligent and adaptable animal, this animal has four toes, three that point forward and one that points back. It moves by walking, hopping, gliding and soaring and can make more than 30 distinct sounds.
4. This animal's front paws tend to be larger than those in the rear, and it drags its tail, leaving marks in the snow. It is very adaptable and omnivorous.
5. This northern animal's large, thickly furred paws are buoyant in deep snow. It loves to chase and eat snowshoe hares.
6. The crescent shape of this migratory animal's two-toed, roundish hooves help them run on top of delicate tundra and snow.
7. This curious animal's hairy feet can make it hard to see the four clawed toes in each print. Tracks are typically single file, one foot in front of the other. It needs no den because of its warm tail, and it often follows other animal's tracks, looking for leftovers.
8. North America's largest rodent makes prints with its webbed feet, then drags its tail over them so they are hard to see. They also can make marks on hills and slopes as they slide down towards the water.
9. These big hooves are at the end of the long legs that help this animal's body keep above the snow. Tracks alternate, the hind foot landing near, or on top of, the front tracks. They can be found in open meadows and near willow and alder.
10. This animal's hooves' hard outer edges and spongy middles allow it to climb what seem like impossibly steep rocky slopes. It is not uncommon to see them hanging out on the mountainside along the Seward Highway.
11. This Alaskan icon's natural camouflage makes it hard to spot. Its feet are heavily feathered in winter to the tips of its toes, increasing their surface so they act like snowshoes. Check for them in and around the willows.
12. This playful, graceful land animal lives near streams and lakes. Its partial webbed, five-toed feet fan out in points, and its loping gait leaves a diagonal track.
13. This sleek, strong-smelling animal leaves prints along the water's edge and it swims well even without webbed feet. All feet have five toes however only four toes usually show up in the front track.



1. snowshoe hare 2. wolf 3. raven 4. coyote 5. lynx 6. caribou 7. red fox 8. beaver 9. moose 10. Dall sheep 11. willow ptarmigan 12. river otter 13. mink.